

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO : The Director.

DATE: 3 April 1947.

FROM : Chief, Legislative Liaison Division.

SUBJECT: Norstad Testimony before Senate Armed Services Committee.

1. Attached is a copy of the prepared statement made by General Norstad this morning at hearings on the National Security Act before the Senate Armed Services Committee.

2. Please return this copy for our files when you have finished with it, since it is the only one we have.

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WALTER L. PFORZHEIMER.

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STATEMENT OF VICE ADMIRAL FORREST SHERMAN, USN
BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE

(1 and 2 Apr., 1947.)

I believe it would be helpful if, before proceeding with a detailed discussion of the proposed National Security Act of 1947, I review briefly the background to its drafting. On 31 May, 1946 the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy submitted to the President a letter in which agreement was reached on various matters including a Council of Common Defense, a National Security Resources Board, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, a Central Intelligence Agency. It was agreed that there should be no single military Chief of Staff. At that time full agreement was not reached on the coordination of procurement, production, and distribution; with respect to a research agency, or to an agency for the review of military education and training. At that time no agreement was reached on the number of military departments, or on the status of the Army Air Forces and Naval Aviation and the functions of the United States Marine Corps.

The President in his letter of June 15, 1946, to the Chairman of the Military Committees in Congress and the Secretaries of the Military departments reviewed the above points and outlined his position regarding those on which full agreement had not been reached.

On 7 November, 1946 Mr. Forrestal invited Mr. Symington, General Norstad, Admiral Radford and me to a meeting at his home at which it was agreed to draft a plan for unification acceptable to both the War and Navy Departments, and within the scope and spirit of the President's letter of 15 June, 1946. It was apparent that the issues which would have to be resolved in order for the Army and Navy to work better together were as follows:

1st. The Form of administrative organization of the departments in Washington;

2nd. The military command arrangements in Washington;

3rd. The military command arrangements in the field;

4th. The status and future of Naval Aviation;

5th. The status and future of the Marine Corps.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed that General Norstad and I would attempt to work up an agreement. The program discussed on that occasion contemplated the following:

1st. Three separate administrative departments;

2nd. A single Secretary of National Defense to coordinate the three military departments and to direct policy;